

Message Text

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NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CPR-01 PER-01

/055 W

----- 084271

R 291830Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6696

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MOSCOW 1308

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASUP, ABLD, CGEN, UR, PFOR

SUBJ: AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL KIEV

REF: STATE 000947

1. TWO EMBASSY OFFICERS VISITED KIEV JANUARY 22-24 TO GATHER INFORMATION RELEVANT TO PROJECTED ESTABLISHMENT U.S. CONSULATE GENERAL KIEV. OFFICERS MET WITH UKRAINIAN MFA CHIEF OF PROTOCOL V.N. TSYBA AND OFFICIALS OF ROMANIAN AND YUGOSLAVIAN CONSULATE GENERALS. TASYBA GAVE FRIENDLY AND HELPFUL RECEPTION, BUT APPEARED UNINFORMED AS TO STATUS OF PLANNING ON SOVIET SIDE, WHILE OFFICIALS OF BOTH CONSULATES GENERAL WERE FRANK AND FORTHCOMING IN DISCUSSING CONDITIONS OF SERVICE IN KIEV.

2. PARAGRAPHS FOLLOWING BELOW SUMMARIZE OUR INITIAL OBSERVATIONS AND ANSWER SPECIFIC QUESTIONS POSED REFTEL. MORE DETAILED EXPOSITION BEING AIRPOUCHED TO EUR/SOV.

3. LOCATIONS. MOST PRESTIGIOUS AND DESIRABLE LOCATION FOR CG AND RESIDENCES WOULD BE ON HIGHTS OVERLOOKING DNEPR RIVER AND RUNNING SOUTHEAST FROM CITY CENTER TOWARD PECHERSKAYA LAVRA MONASTERY (AREA BOUNDED ROUGHLY BY KRESHCHATIK ST., KIROV ST AND LESI UKRAINKI BOULEVARD).

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AREA HAS NUMEROUS OLD MANSIONS AND NEW LOW-RISE BUILDINGS,

INCLUDING PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES. SECOND BEST LOCATION WOULD BE ON HILLS RISING TO WEST OF KRESHCHATIK ST. IN GENERAL NEIGHBORHOOD OF ST. SOPHIA CATHEDRAL. ALL SEVEN EE CONSULATES AND THEIR APARTMENTS ARE LOCATED IN OR NEAR THIS AREA.

4. RENTS. IN ACCORDANCE SOVIET PRACTICE RENTS ARE CALCULATED ON BASIS SQUARE METERS "USABLE" SPACE (WHICH TERM EXCLUDES KITCHENS, BATHS, HALLWAYS AND UTILITY ROOMS) AND VARY WITH QUALITY OF BUILDING AND LOCATION. ROMANIANS AND YUGOSLAVS NOW PAY 14 RUBLES (R1-U.S.1.37) PER SQUARE METER PER YEAR FOR THEIR CONGEN BUILDINGS WHICH ARE IN COMFORTABLE, ATTRACTIVE BUT OLDER VILLAS. YUGOSLAVS ALSO HAVE APARTMENTS NEARBY FOR 11 RUBLES. NEWER BUILDINGS OR MORE CENTRAL LOCATIONS WOULD PROBABLY RUN HIGHER.

5. FOR ADVANCE PARTY MEMBERS MOST DESIRABLE HOTEL IS NEW CENTRALLY LOCATED DNEPR. RATES ARE 10 RUBLES PER NIGHT FOR SINGLE, 15 FOR DOUBLE AND 35 FOR EITHER TWO OR THREE-ROOM SUITES (HOTEL HAS APPROXIMATELY 10 EACH OF LATTER). HOTEL LYBED, LARGER AND NEWER THAN DNEPR, ALSO RECOMMENDED BUT LOCATION (NEAR RAILROAD STATION) NOT NEARLY SO CONVENIENT.

6. RELATIONS WITH MFA, ETC. PROTOCOL AND CONSULAR DEPARTMENT OF UKRAINIAN MFA ARE CHIEF POINTS OF CONTACT FOR OFFICIAL BUSINESS, PARTICULARLY TRAVEL AND QUESTIONS OF SUBSTANTIVE NATURE. MATTERS INVOLVING ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT AND DAILY OPERATIONS ARE HANDLED BY UPKK (ADMINISTRATION FOR SERVICE OF THE CONSULAR CORPS), THE LIAISON OFFICE BETWEEN THE CITY SOVIET AND THE CONSULAR CORPS SIMILAR TO LENINGRAD ARRANGEMENT. OFFICIALS OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS SAID TO BE FRIENDLY AND ANXIOUS TO ASSIST, BUT LACKING IN RESOURCES AND UNDOUBTEDLY ON TIGHT MOSCOW LEASH FOR ANY POTENTIALLY SENSITIVE MATTER. RELATIONS BETWEEN EXISTING CONGENS APPEAR CLOSE, WITH CURRENT ROMANIAN CG EXERCISING DEAN OF CORPS RESPONSIBILITIES IN SERIOUS MANNER.

7. FOOD AND SUPPLIES. COOPERATIVE MARKET SYSTEM
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PROVIDES LIMITED SELECTION FRESH FOODS COMPARABLE TO MOSCOW OR LENINGRAD AND "KASHTAN" HARD-CURRENCY STORE HAS SOME WESTERN LUXURY ITEMS, BUT MOST HIGH-QUALITY GOODS AND SPECIALIZED SUPPLIES WILL CLEARLY HAVE TO BE IMPORTED FROM MOSCOW OR ABROAD. OFFICE SUPPLIES AND PERSONAL ITEMS, SUCH AS CLOTHING OR HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS, AT U.S. STANDARDS NOT AVAILABLE. ORDERING SERVICE IS PROVIDED BY UPKK, ALTHOUGH IN VIEW LIMITED STOCKS OF CENTRAL FOOD

STORE, EE CONGENS RELY HEAVILY ON SHOPPING AT MARKETS
OR OTHER GROCERY STORES.

8. MEDICAL SERVICES. SOVIETS MAKE PREMIER POLYCLINIC
HOSPITAL NO. 1, WHICH SERVES SENIOR LOCAL OFFICIALS
AVAILABLE ONLY TO CONSUL GENERALS AND IMMEDIATE FAMILIES.
POLYCLINIC NO. 2, NORMALLY SERVING SECOND LEVEL OFFICIALS
AND PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE, IS OPEN TO DIPLOMATIC OR
CONSULAR OFFICERS AND THEIR STAFF, WHILE A THIRD POLYCLINIC
IS THE DESIGNATED MEDICAL CENTER FOR SUPPORT STAFF.
EMBOFFS DID NOT HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE FURTHER OR
COMPARE SERVICES BETWEEN POLYCLINICS OF THIS RANK-STRUCTURED
ARRANGEMENT WHICH IS ACCEPTED BY EE CONSULATES WHO RECEIVE
FREE SERVICES ON RECIPROCAL BASIS.

9. LANGUAGE. UKRAINIANS OBVIOUSLY PRIDE THEMSELVES
ON LOCAL CULTURE AND UKRAINIAN LANGUAGE MUCH IN EVIDENCE
IS SIGNS, LOCAL PUBLICATIONS, CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS, ETC.
AMONG CITY FOLK AT LEAST, HOWEVER, RUSSIA ADEQUATE FOR
ALL PURPOSES. ENGLISH IS SPOKEN BY RELATIVELY FEW, EVEN
AMONG INTOURIST PERSONNEL AND LANGUAGE BARRIER WILL POSE
REAL DIFFICULTIES FOR U.S. PERSONNEL NOT TRAINED IN
RUSSIAN OR UKRAINIAN.

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NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CPR-01 PER-01

ST-01 /056 W

----- 084589

R 291830Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MOSCOW 1308

10. DACHA. FOLLOWING CONCERTED EFFORT BY CONSULAR CORPS,
A PICNIC AREA 26 KMS FROM TOWN WAS MADE AVAILABLE RECENTLY

FOR USE OF CG STAFFS. NO EE CONGEN PERSONNEL, HOWEVER, HAVE ACCESS TO RECREATIONAL DACHA, ALTHOUGH THEY CAN APPLY FOR ROOMS AT OUTLYING "SANITORIUMS," THE SOVIET EQUIVALENT OF EUROPEAN SPAS. OUR REQUEST FOR U.S. DACHA APPEARS CERTAIN TO CAUSE SOVIETS PROBLEMS OF PRECEDENT AND EQUAL TREATMENT OTHER CONGENS, BUT AT SAME TIME IT IS CLEAR RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR U.S. STAFF WILL BE SEVERELY LIMITED WITHOUT SUCH FACILITY.

11. COMMUNICATIONS. KIEV AS LARGE CITY HAS REASONABLE CONNECTIONS INTO CENTRAL SOVIET MAIL, TELEPHONE AND TELEX SERVICES. YUGOSLAVS HAVE DIAL TELEX TERMINAL INTO INTERNATIONAL EUROPEAN SYSTEM, ALTHOUGH ROMANIAN TELEX GOES VIA MOSCOW.

12. TRAVEL. CONNECTIONS WITHIN USSR ARE GOOD AND INEXPENSIVE. BY AIR ONE WAY TO MOSCOW IS 15 RUBLES, SIX FLIGHTS DAILY, DIRECT TAKING ONE HOUR TWENTY MINUTES. THERE ARE FOUR DAILY TRAINS TO AND FROM MOSCOW, A TWELVE HOUR RIDE AT 19 RUBLES FOR A SLEEPER. THERE ARE REGULAR AIR AND TRAIN CONNECTIONS TO ALL MAJOR CENTERS IN THE AREA. INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS ARE MORE LIMITED, WITH WEEKLY FLIGHTS TO BERLIN, BELGRADE AND SOFIA. IN SUMMER, SCHEDULE IS SUPPLEMENTED WITH FLIGHTS TO OTHER EE CAPITALS, VIENNA, CONFIDENTIAL

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PARIS AND ZURICH. THERE ARE DAILY EXPRESS TRAIN CONNECTIONS TO MOST EUROPEAN CAPITALS.

13. SHIPMENTS. ALTHOUGH EE CONSULATES DEPEND ON RAIL SERVICE OUR EXPERIENCE INDICATES RAIL TRANSHIPMENTS FROM WEST EUROPE INTO USSR MOST UNRELIABLE. ACCEPTABLE OPTIONS APPEAR SEA TO ODESSA AND RAIL OR CONSULATE TRUCK TO KIEV; TURUCH FROM VIENNA; TURCH OR RAIL FROM MOSCOW; TRUCK OR RAIL FROM HELSINKI VIA MOSCOW, DEPENDING ON POINT OF ORIGIN, NATURE AND SIZE SHIPMENT. EMBASSY STILL IN PROCESS GATHERING SPECIFIC DATA.

14. LOCAL EMPLOYEES. EE CONSULATES APPARENTLY MAKE MINIMUM USE -- ROMANIANS HAVE NONE; YUGOSLAVS ONE YARDMAN PART TIME. WITHOUT EXPERIENCE TO GUIDE US WE WOULD GUESS IN DARD THAT ENGLISH SPEAKERS WILL BE DIFFICULT TO FIND AND ANY LOCAL EMPLOYEES WILL REQUIRE CONSIDERABLE TRAINING OR ADJUSTMENT PERIOD TO WORK WELL WITH U.S. PROCEDURES. MATLOCK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MOSCOW01308
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750033-0190
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750110/aaaaaiyi.tel
Line Count: 218
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 000947
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 APR 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <03 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL KIEV
TAGS: ASUP, ABLD, CGEN, PFOR, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006